

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. Heading

Date: March 22, 1993

Subject: NL/Dutch Boy Paints Site
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

From: Steven Touw, OSC
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POLREP NO.: Initial (1)

II. Background

Site No.:	AQ
ERNS No.:	N/A
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
Action Memo Status:	Signed 9/21/92
Start Date:	2/12/93
Demobilization Date:	
Completion Date:	

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

ERGCLA incident category: Inactive production facility.

B. Site Description

1. Site Description

The Site is situated within the 20-acre State Street Industrial Park, located between State Street and the Arthur Kill, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

The site is a former metal smelting/paint manufacturing facility, owned and operated by the National Lead Company (now NL Industries) from about 1928 until January 1979. In the course of its operations,

National Lead used materials such as lead, copper, arsenic and antimony in its smelting operations. The facility accepted large quantities of scrap metals and used batteries on a daily basis for its smelting operations. It also used large quantities of yellow, white, and black arsenic. Its paints and pigments subsidiary, Dutch Boy Paints, used numerous chemicals, including, but not limited to, paint pigments containing compounds of cobalt, cadmium, lead, calcium and chromium; various resins, and paint solvents.

Since 1979, when NL Industries sold the property, the site has been utilized as a small industrial park. Its current tenants include small manufacturing, storage, recycling and trucking businesses. Many of the buildings on site are being used for a variety of functions, including acetylene production, fiberglass tank construction and warehousing. Other buildings appear to be abandoned and no longer in use.

2. Description of Threat

Some of the buildings house active facilities, but many are abandoned, with no effective security measures to restrict access. Trespassers can be exposed, by direct contact, to the hazardous materials present and potentially expose others through the transport of such materials. Evidence of trespassers was noted throughout the duration of the site assessment. Due to the high number of flammable materials located at the site, the threat of a fire is real. A fire in this area may cause chemicals to react, creating a toxic plume that could impact the environment, surrounding businesses, and residents. The plume could force the closing of the Outerbridge Crossing, eliminating major access to Staten Island. It could travel across the Arthur Kill and impact Staten Island. Several fires have occurred at the site, including one in the mid-1980's which destroyed a major portion of one of the abandoned buildings. The fire was attributed by County authorities to vandalism.

C. Preliminary Assessment Results

In June, July and August 1992, EPA and the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) performed a site assessment at the Custom Distribution Industrial Park, which included inventorying, sampling, and hazcatting of the contents of buildings #1-4. The buildings contained 11 transformers, and over 170 drums, bags and various other containers of unknown materials. The buildings were mapped in detail so containers could be easily

2. Removal Actions to Date

Seven samples of material related to the two bag-houses on site (referred to as BH-1 and BH-2) were collected by TAT under the direction of the OSC on February 11. The samples consisted of fabric, particles from the interior of the bags, and discolored soil underlying BH-2. All the samples were analyzed for Total Metals and TCLP Metals. The analytical results indicated the presence of leachable lead, and metals such as mercury and arsenic in levels exceeding the RCRA regulatory limits.

On February 22 ERCS relocated the bag-houses and associated debris. The bag-houses were covered with plastic to prevent potential runoff. On March 3, 1993 ERCS began building an enclosure to suppress the potential migration of contaminants during the future bag-house dismantling and fabric filter removal operation.

On February 24 ERCS began removing rubble from two pits in Building #38. The first pit was cleaned and the extracted debris inspected for the presence of hazardous chemicals and evidence of a release. One drum with material, two empties, and three one-gallon or smaller containers were retrieved with the debris. Also, a pallet of 10 bags of furnace coating material was found.

During the above operation a representative from an electrical contractor, working for ASCO, informed TAT that his crew was being exposed to the dust generated by the excavation. Additionally, he requested to be briefed on the operation and hazardous materials involved. TAT informed the AST health and safety officer, who in turn responded to the person's questions and concerns. ERCS responded by hanging additional tarps from the fence separating the work area from ASCO.

On March 4, 1993, AST collected samples NL 001, 002, 003 and 004 from drums and materials extracted from the two furnace pits in building 38 for hazcatting. A fifth sample of white solid material was collected from a third pit. Hazcatting results indicated that the materials are inorganic solids.

On March 9, 1993, the OSC discovered a suspicious solid material in various columns and walls in building #36. The OSC and TAT sampled this material. The samples were numbered NL 006 and 007. Further screening of

this samples, as well as samples NL 001 through 004, revealed arsenic contamination.

On March 16, 1995, TAT and AST sampled, as directed by the OSC, the above locations. Four 16 ounce samples were collected from each location for TCLP/metals analysis, and disposal analysis.

3. Enforcement

N/A

C. Next Steps

Begin to dismantle the baghouses, remove its bags, and encase them in drums filled with concrete. Storage of those drums for disposal.

D. Key Issues

N/A

V. COST INFORMATION

Mitigation funding for this site has been approved in the amount of \$1.2 million, with a ceiling amount of \$1.5 million. To date ERCS expenditures are \$54,900, and TAT costs to date amount to approximately \$15,800. Exact EPA direct cost is \$12,155.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTE

Wastestream	Medium	Quantity	Containment- Migration Control	Treatment	Disposal
PCBs Contaminated waste	Liquid Wastes	98,310 Gal.	unknown	unknown	unknown
Baghouse Filters	Solid	40 Cy.	Containment Structure	Immobiliza- tion	Land- fill

FURTHER
 POLREPS FINAL _____ FORTHCOMING POLREP X

SUBMITTED BY

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 Branch

DATE RELEASED: 3-24-93